

## ABSTRACT

A mediating apparatus is provided on an IP network, and stores an access control list (ACL) retained in a VPN gateway unit. The mediating apparatus: receives a retrieval request from a VPN client unit; acquires a  
5 private IP address of a communication unit by reference to ACL; searches DNS to acquire therefrom an IP address of the VPN gateway unit; generates a common key that is used for authentication between the VPN client unit and the VPN gateway unit and for encrypted communication therebetween; sends the IP address of the VPN gateway unit, the private IP address of the  
10 communication unit, and the common key to the VPN client unit; and sends the IP address of the VPN client unit and the common key to the VPN gateway unit.

